

NOW ACCEPTING APPLICATIONS

CONFIGURATOR SPECIALIST

CLICK HERE TO LEARN MORE

HEIL TRAILER

EEO-M/F/D/V



timesfreepress.com

Prudential Realty Center.com
Linda Brock Homes.com

home latest local business sports life opinion politics jobs homes cars shop classifieds

sites: right2know mobile community obituaries north georgia pix news revolution current get out chatter ideal health dining out mytfp »

home » local/regional » latinos criticize obama, congress ...

published Monday, July 9th, 2012

Latinos criticize Obama, Congress over immigration

by Perla Trevizo
[view bio »](#)

font size print email share

Less than four months before the presidential election, many in the Latino community believe neither President Barack Obama nor Congress has delivered on the promise of comprehensive immigration reform.

"We believe that Latinos have been carefully watching the actions of the president and of our nation's elected representatives and are not seeing a solution emerge," said Roselyn Gold, a senior director with the National Association of Latino Elected and Appointed Officials.

Obama and presumptive Republican nominee Mitt Romney addressed the association's members in June.

U.S. Sen. Bob Corker, R-Tenn., criticized Obama's accomplishments on immigration during a recent editorial board meeting at the Chattanooga Times Free Press.

"There has been no attempt by this administration to address immigration. None," he said.

But a political science professor at Dalton State College called the criticism "disingenuous."

The comprehensive immigration reform the Obama administration and Democrats are interested in "is one that has zero chances of passing," professor Ken Ellinger said. "Any attempt is a waste of time because it would involve some sort of amnesty, and that's a complete nonstarter with Republicans."

A bill that would provide a path to citizenship to youth brought illegally into the country by their parents, the DREAM Act, has been introduced multiple times over the last decade. It passed the House 18 months ago with support from Democrats, but failed by five votes in the Senate.

Last month, Obama said his administration will grant relief on a case-by-case basis to stop deportations of young people who would have been covered by the DREAM Act. The move could affect 800,000 to more than 1 million noncitizens, according to various estimates.

The administration has said it will focus on deporting illegal immigrants who have criminal backgrounds or previous deportation orders.

Many Hispanics approve those moves but are only cautiously optimistic.

"President Obama has not fulfilled his promises of fixing our nation's flawed immigration policies,"



photo+

videos » photos » e-



BLUE MAN GROUP

MEMORIAL AUDITORIUM
THURSDAY, JULY 26

WIN TICKETS NOW!

advertisement

other local-region news »

NRA pressures state GOP on guns law
July 9th, 2012 | [share](#) |

Historic area in Cleveland, Tenn., awaits its fate
July 9th, 2012 | [share](#) |

Rick Smith's first year: Stability, few surprises
July 9th, 2012 | [share](#) |

Hamilton County assessor contest first in 12 years
July 9th, 2012 | [share](#) |

Latinos criticize Obama, Congress over immigration
July 9th, 2012 | [share](#) |

top headlines »

top commented stories »

top emailed »

Find us on Facebook

Chattanooga Times Free Press

You like this. Page · Insign
You like this. Page · Insign

Like Confirm

Miguel Carpizo, East Tennessee organizer for the Tennessee Immigrant and Refugee Rights Coalition, said in an email.

"During his administration, thousands of families have been torn apart under programs like Secure Communities and 287(g) [a program that allows local law enforcement to check immigration status of people who are arrested.] These programs create mistrust between law enforcement and immigrant communities," he wrote.

Maria de la Rosa, an illegal immigrant who moved to Dalton, Ga., eight years ago and is being deported, said Obama could have done a lot more for the Hispanic community.

"He arrived at the presidency with the Hispanic vote," said the Mexico native.

Hispanics voted for Obama over Republican nominee John McCain by more than 2-to-1 in 2008, according to the Pew Hispanic Center.

One of de la Rosa's daughters meets requirements to stay in the country under Obama's initiative. The other came to the United States when she was 16, missing the cutoff date of 15 or younger.

Corker said deferring action against youths brought here by their parents causes people to lose faith in the federal government.

"These laws are on the books but [saying] 'We are not going to enforce them,' that's a pretty big head-scratcher," he said.

When he made the announcement, Obama said the plan was not amnesty or immunity.

"This is not a path to citizenship. It's not a permanent fix," he said in a news conference. "Precisely because this is temporary, Congress needs to act."

President George W. Bush tried for comprehensive immigration reform in 2007 but failed. The legislation would have set up a way for illegal immigrants already in the country to get legal and become citizens.

"What blew up the '07 negotiations was the pathway to citizenship," Corker said. Instead, the focus should be on ways for people to come here legally to work, he said.

"We have lines and lines of people who want to come into our country legally and they've been waiting decades in some cases," he said. "We do need to figure out some ways to cause our system to function in a much better way, and just ignoring the laws we have in our books tears down Americans' faith in our system."

But he doesn't think immigration reform will be dealt with before the November elections.

Ellinger said the only way to achieve immigration reform is for one party to control Congress and the presidency.

"I don't see both parties compromising," he said.



about Perla Trevizo...

Perla Trevizo joined the Chattanooga Times Free Press in 2007 and covers immigration/diversity issues and higher education. She holds a master's degree in newswire journalism from Universidad Rey Juan Carlos in Madrid, Spain, and a bachelor's degree in political science from the University of Texas. In 2011 she participated in the Bringing Home the World international reporting fellowship program sponsored by the International Center for Journalists, producing a series on Guatemalan immigrants for which she ...

- view bio
- view articles
- fav staff
- rss feed
- twitter

related articles »

Immigration suddenly roiling presidential contest

Many in Chattanooga area praise immigration move

U.S. will give immunity to some young illegal immigrants

May Day protests show weak immigration movement

27,772 people like Chattanooga Times Free



jobs **TOPJOBS** [clickhere](#)

MECHANIC NEEDED- \$3
CHATTANOOGA, TN Confidential

Supervisor
Chattanooga, TN Wallenius Wilhelmsen Logistics

[More jobs](#)

cars **TOPCARS** [clickhere](#)



\$55,955
2013 Cadillac XTS
Integrity Automotive

[View All Featured](#)

homes **TOPHOMES** [clickhere](#)

\$285,000



Keller Williams Realty
[More Details...](#)

June 21st, 2012

ORLANDO, Fla. — No longer a backburner issue, immigration is roiling the presidential contest as President Barack Obama and Republican ...

June 16th, 2012

Every time Mariela Cruz heard Congress was voting on a bill that might help her legalize her status, her eyes ...

June 15th, 2012

WASHINGTON — The Obama administration will stop deporting and begin granting work permits to younger illegal immigrants who came to ...

May 2nd, 2012

While a black preacher told 100 immigration protesters that incarcerated blacks and detained immigrants faced similar challenges, Jesse Morgan stood ...

timesfreepress.com

Chattanooga Times Free Press

400 East 11th St., Chattanooga, TN 37403
General Information (423) 756-6900

[submit events](#)
[feedback](#)
[place an ad](#)
[rss feeds](#)

[archives](#)
[contact us](#)
[advertise](#)
[promotions](#)

[site map](#)
[mobile](#)
[email updates](#)
[subscribe](#)

Copyright, [permissions and privacy policy](#), [Ethics policy](#) - Copyright ©2012, Chattanooga Publishing Company, Inc. All rights reserved.
This document may not be reprinted without the express written permission of Chattanooga Publishing Company, Inc.